

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: TWO SESSIONS FRIDAY DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF FREEDOM DEFINITIONS AND RESPECTIVE CAPACITY ARTICLES. U.S. DEL PROPOSED TO SUBMIT PRE-SCREENING PROPOSAL MONDAY. THAI DEL TABLED "RECIPROCAL" ROUTE SCHEDULE WITH ALL POINTS SPECIFIED ON BOTH SIDES. END SUMMARY.

2. MORNING DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON U.S. OBJECTION TO TOKYO-GUAM ROUTE ON BASIS EXCESS FIFTH FREEDOM. THAI DEL SAID U.S. OPERATIONS ALSO INVOLVED LARGE AMOUNTS OF FIFTH FREEDOM E.G. HONG KONG-BANGKOK. DISCUSSION THEN REVERTED TO RESPECTIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF STOPOVER WITH THAIS ARGUING THAT STOPOVERS OVER 72 HOURS CHANGED FREEDOM CATEGORY FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY. U.S. DEL PUSHED TRADITIONAL VIEW BUT NOT PROGRESS MADE IN DEBATE.

3. THAI DEL TABLED FOLLOWING "RECIPROCAL" ROUTE DESCRIPTION FOR RTG, FROM BANGKOK VIA INTERMEDIATE POINTS TO GUAM, PAGO PAGO, HONOLULU, LA OR SF OR SEATTLE, CHICAGO AND NEW YORK AND BEYOND. FOR U.S., FROM CHICAGO, LA, SF, SEATTLE, HONOLULU AND GUAM TO BANGKOK AND BEYOND. U.S. DEL SAID ROUTE PROPOSAL CONTAINED BOTH FORMALISTIC AND PRACTICAL

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PROBLEMS BUT WOULD RESPOND IN DETAIL LATER.

4. AFTERNOON SESSION DEVOTED TO LONG AND INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE ON CAPACITY PRINCIPLES. THAI DEL SAID THEY NEEDED PREDETERMINISM TO PROTECT SMALL THAI CARRIERS FROM LARGE U.S. CARRIERS. (THIS HAS BEEN PREVAILING THEME THROUGHOUT.) THAI DEL SAID U.S. ATTITUDE ON BOTH ROUTES AND CAPACITY PLACED "OBSTRUCTIONS" IN DEVELOPMENT OF THAI CARRIERS AND PREVENTED ANY "BALANCE" IN AGREEMENT. AT ONE POINT THAI DEL INDICATED THAT IF ITS INTERESTS COULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED RTG WOULD HAVE TO TERMINATE AGREEMENT. U.S. DEL SAID IT WAS PREPARED GO LONG WAY TO MEET THAI OBJECTIVES BUT THERE WERE QUITE CLEAR LIMITS BEYOND WHICH U.S. COULD NOT GO.

5. COMMENT: IN MONDAY SESSION U.S. DEL PLANS TABLE PRE-SCREENING PROPOSAL SIMILAR TO PHIL DEAL AS WELL AS ROUTE DEAL WITH CENTRAL PACIFIC ROUTE, POSSIBLY INCLUDING MANILA WITH LIMITATIONS, AND SOUTH PACIFIC ROUTE WITHOUT TAHITI. DOUBT THAT THIS WILL BE ENOUGH BUT WILL DO BEST TO DEFEND THIS AS FAIR PROPOSITION.

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